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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Darren **Hansen** (Australia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 70/73 of 7 December 2015.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September 2016, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 89 to 105. At its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 3 to 7 and from 10 to 12 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items. At its 8th meeting, on 11 October, the Committee had an exchange with the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and presentation of reports. At its 10th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Committee also held 13 meetings (10th to 22nd), on 13 and 14, from 17 to 21 and from 24 to 27 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at the 22nd to 26th meetings, on 27 and 28 October and from 31 October to 2 November.[1]

[1] For an account of the Committee's discussion of the item, see A/C.1/71/PV.2, A/C.1/71/PV.3, A/C.1/71/PV.4, A/C.1/71/PV.5, A/C.1/71/PV.6, A/C.1/71/PV.7, A/C.1/71/PV.8, A/C.1/71/PV.9, A/C.1/71/PV.10, A/C.1/71/PV.11, A/C.1/71/PV.12, A/C.1/71/PV.13, A/C.1/71/PV.14, A/C.1/71/PV.15, A/C.1/71/PV.16, A/C.1/71/PV.17, A/C.1/71/PV.18, A/C.1/71/PV.19, A/C.1/71/PV.20, A/C.1/71/PV.21, A/C.1/71/PV.22, A/C.1/71/PV.23, A/C.1/71/PV.24, A/C.1/71/PV.25 and A/C.1/71/PV.26.

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4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (A/71/134 and Add.1).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.28

5. At the 10th meeting, on 13 October, the representative of New Zealand, on behalf of Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United States of America and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" (A/C.1/71/L.28). Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Monaco, Montenegro, the Niger, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 22nd meeting, on 27 October, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.28 as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 172 to none, with 11 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia,

[2] The delegation of Honduras subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts And Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic.

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 177 to none, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,

[3] The delegation of Honduras subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, India, Israel, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic.

(c) Draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.28, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 183 to 1, with 4 abstentions (see para 7). The voting was as follows:[4]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United

[4] The delegation of Honduras subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Abstaining:

Equatorial Guinea, India, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure, and convinced that this is a meaningful step in the realization of a systematic process for achieving nuclear disarmament,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Stressing that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and will be a major contribution to international peace and security,

Stressing also the vital importance and urgency of achieving the entry into force of the Treaty, as noted also in Security Council resolution 2310 (2016) of 23 September 2016, and affirming its resolute determination, 20 years after the Treaty was opened for signature, to achieve its entry into force,

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by 183 States, including 41 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of the Treaty by 166 States, including 36 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, among which there are 3 nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling its resolution 70/73 of 7 December 2015,

Recalling also the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[1] in which the Conference, inter alia, reaffirmed the vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and included specific actions to be taken in support of the entry into force of the Treaty,

Welcoming the 20 Years CTBT Ministerial Meeting, held in Vienna on 13 and 14 June 2016, which brought together leaders and policymakers to review and reinvigorate efforts to achieve the entry into force of the Treaty,

Welcoming also the Final Declaration adopted by the ninth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 29 September 2015, convened pursuant to article XIV of the

[1] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, *Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions*.

Treaty, and recalling the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted at the ministerial meeting held in New York on 21 September 2016,[2]

Noting that the group of eminent persons, established to support the article XIV process, met in Vienna on 14 June 2016, where they called for new thinking and further engagement with the leadership of the remaining eight annex 2 States with the aim of facilitating their respective ratification processes,

Noting also the establishment in early 2016 of a youth group open to all students and young graduates who are directing their careers towards contributing to global peace and security and who wish to actively engage in promoting the Treaty and its verification regime,

Welcoming continuing progress in the development of the Treaty's verification regime, which advances the Treaty's primary non-proliferation and disarmament objective,

1. *Stresses* the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, in order to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the signatory States to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty, and encourages their continuation;

3. *Underlines* the need to maintain momentum towards completion of all elements of the verification regime;

4. *Urges* all States not to carry out nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, to maintain their moratoriums in this regard and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty;

5. *Strongly condemns* the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 6 January and 9 September 2016, as expressed by the Security Council in its resolution 2270 (2016) of 2 March 2016 and the Security Council press statement of 9 September 2016, recalls Council resolutions 1718 (2006) of 14 October 2006, 1874 (2009) of 12 June 2009 and 2094 (2013) of 7 March 2013, calls for full compliance with the obligations under the relevant resolutions, and reaffirms its support for the Six-Party Talks;

6. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;

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[2] A/71/___.

[3] See resolution 50/245 and A/50/1027.

7. *Urges* all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

8. *Welcomes*, since its previous resolution on the subject, the ratification of the Treaty by Myanmar and Swaziland, since every ratification is a significant step towards the early entry into force of the Treaty;

9. *Also welcomes* the recent expressions from among the remaining States whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to enter into force of their intention to pursue and complete the ratification process;

10. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means;

11. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 70/73;[4]

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".

[4] A/71/134 and Add.1.